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Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1942

INCLUDING THE

Report ^{of} _{the} Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.



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Report ^{of} _{the} Medical Officer of Health

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Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Urban District of Ilfracombe.

Public Health Committee :

Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. H. ROULSTONE.

COUNCILLORS :

E. G. BAUGH.

T. MERCER.

H. BRYANT.

R. A. E. STUART.

R. FAIRCHILD.

W. E. TREBBLE.

J. H. GILBERT.

J. D. WALLER and

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
(Councillor J. ARMSTRONG, J.P.)

Public Health Staff :

Part-Time Officer :

Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital—

D. C. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Whole-Time Officers :

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

F. J. SAUNDERS, Cert. R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A.

Junior Assistant : R. F. M. SAUNDERS.

Matron, Isolation Hospital : Miss G. CARRICK, S.R.N., S.F.N.

Statistical Memoranda, 1942.

Area (excluding Foreshore)	5,627 acres
Rateable Value (1st April, 1942)	£85,476
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£343 1s. 10d.
Rainfall during 1942	860 m.m.
Bright Sunshine during 1942	1631.5 hours

Vital Statistics.

Live Births :

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 12.2

Still Births :

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 33.7

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 13.6

Corrected Death Rate not available for 1942

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	0	0

INFANT MORTALITY.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births 66.6

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 66.6

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births —

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Detailed particulars of these services were given in the Annual Report for the year 1932; there has been no material change during the past year.

Water Supply.

Five routine samples were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunisation of children was continued throughout 1942, the following numbers being dealt with :

Children under 5 years of age 73

Children age 5 to 15 years 133

Of the 7 cases of diphtheria notified during the year, one only had been immunised.

Scabies.

The cleansing station was transferred in April from the Towers to the old coach-house at the Isolation Hospital where more adequate facilities are available.

166 cases were treated, 101 of these being cured by a single treatment.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 to 45 years	2	2	—	1	1	1	—	—
45 to 55 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	8	1	2	3	3	—	—

Disinfection of Rooms and Articles.— 62 rooms were disinfected as follows :— Scarlet Fever, 8 rooms; Diphtheria 7 rooms; Scabies, 24 rooms; Tuberculosis, 7 rooms; Typhoid 1 room; Vermin, 8 rooms; Other diseases, 7 rooms.

1,810 articles were disinfected.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1942.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District
Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. FARNDELL AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Fifteenth Annual Report which deals with the work carried out during the year 1942.

Complaints. A total of 69 complaints were received and investigated, the necessary action being taken to obtain the abatement of any nuisances which came within the scope of the Public Health Acts.

Notices Served.

Statutory (under Public Health Act)	...	...	...	1
Informal	do.	...	...	36
Verbal	do.	...	...	32
Notices relative to infectious disease	...	...	...	6
Total				75

Letters and Circulars sent.

Relating to Milk Supply	...	...	...	61
„ Food	...	...	...	54
„ Petroleum Act	...	...	...	14
Total				129

SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	...	...	8
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	4
External plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Plaster walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	9
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	16
Room walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water closet cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water closet roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet basins replaced	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
New Interceptors provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	25
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Waste pipes cleared...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factory walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Factory water closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	3



Factories & Workshops Act, 1901.

Factories Act, 1937.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspection (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecuted Occupiers (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	32	0	0
FACTORIES without mechanical power ...	78	0	0
OTHER PREMISES under the Act ... (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	25	0	0
Total	135	0	0

2. **Defects found.**

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	6	6	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient	Nil	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	0	0	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	—	—	—
Other offences... .. (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Power) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).	3	3	—	—
Total	9	9	Nil	Nil

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No case of infestation was reported during the year.

Housing.

Housing Statistics.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	70
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	449
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		1
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	8
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	0
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	49

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	49
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
	(a) By owners	... ..	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	49
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were rendered after service of formal notices :		
	(a) By owners	... ..	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—OVERCROWDING.

In view of the large number of evacuees received in the district, it was impossible to consider overcrowding.

Camping Grounds. Very little use was made of camping grounds during the year, only a few sites were in use.

11 visits of inspection were made, conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Beaches and Pleasure Grounds. Regular arrangements are in operation for clearing refuse and litter from the beaches and pleasure grounds and during the year, no serious nuisance occurred.



Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Work carried out in connection with the milk supply during 1942 included :—

114 inspections of farms.
137 inspections of cowsheds.
177 inspections of dairies.
174 inspections of dairymen's vehicles.
148 samples of milk obtained.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Premises within the Urban District :

Cowkeepers on Register (31st December, 1942)	...	45
Registered as Producer Retailers	...	27
Registered as Producer Wholesalers	...	28
Registered as Producer Retailers and Wholesalers		7
Retailers with dairy only—non-producers	...	29

Persons who sell milk within the Urban District but whose premises are situated outside the district :

Registered as Producer Retailers	...	18
Registered as Producer Wholesalers	...	47
Registered as Producer Retailers and Wholesalers		5

In addition to the above, 37 persons who retail cream only in the Ilfracombe Market are registered.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The Methylene Blue Reduction Test is used for all samples.

132 samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist, 76 of these passed and 56 failed.

Tuberculosis Examination of Milk samples.

25 samples from bulk supplies of milk were obtained and forwarded to the County Bacteriologist to be examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli by means of guinea pig inoculation.

Two samples taken from milk supplied by producers whose premises are outside the Urban District gave positive results, the infected animals were traced and dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with the Tuberculosis Order.

22 samples gave negative results and one owing to the premature death of the inoculation guinea pig was reported as inconclusive.

Meat and Other Foods.

During 1942, the following inspections were made in connection with the supervision of the food supply:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	165
Food Purveyors' Shops	...	...	693
Markets	...	...	48
Bakehouses	...	...	21
Food Hawkers' Vehicles	...	...	38
Meat Carriers' Vehicles	...	...	43
Preserved Meat Dealers' Premises			28
Ice Cream Dealers' Premises			14
Cafés and Hotels	...	...	26
Other Food Premises	...	...	53

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	230	121	47	3,804	74
Number inspected	230	121	47	3,804	74
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	1	13	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	46	14	0	159	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	20.0	11.57	2.13	4.46	0
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	1	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	10	0	0	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	2.61	9.9	0	0	6.76

Animals inspected and found to show evidence of disease or unsoundness

TABLE I.—*Cases in which whole carcase and organs destroyed.*

Disease or Condition		Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep or Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis	..	—	1	—	—	—
Enteritis	..	—	—	1	—	—
Moribund	..	—	—	—	3	—
Oedema	..	—	—	—	3	—
Pyrexia	..	—	—	—	2	—
Septicaemia	..	—	—	—	4	—
Septic Pneumonia		—	—	—	1	—
Total		—	1	1	13	—

Unsound Food.

Weight of Unsound Meat and Offals destroyed during 1942 :

		Tuberculosis	Other Diseases and Conditions		Total
Beef	...	1,066	...	749	1,815
Beef Offals	...	816	...	1,351	2,167
Pork	...	87	...	280	367
Pork Offals	...	10	...	19	29
Mutton	...	0	...	993	993
Mutton Offals	...	0	...	416	416
Total		1,979		3,808	5,787

Other Unsound Foods Destroyed.

Apples	...	13 tins	Rabbit	...	11 tins
Blackberries	...	2 „	Cocoa	...	181 pkts
Jam	...	23 jars	Custard Powder	...	19 tins
Loganberries	...	1 tin	Dried Eggs	...	3 „
Marmalade	...	15 jars	Milk Powder	...	2 „
Peaches	...	3 tins	Prepared Meal	...	13 „
Pineapples	...	39 „	Spaghetti	...	6 „
Plums	...	15 „	Wheat	...	1 pkt.
Raspberries	...	1 „	Milk	...	128 tins
Tomatoes	...	550 „	Sauce	...	5 bottles
Beetroot	...	43 „	Oranges	...	277
Carrots	...	6 „	Prunes	...	8 lbs.
Peas	...	59 „	Flour	...	51 „
Mixed Pickles	...	6 jars	Rice	...	6 „
Paste	...	12 „	Butter	...	12 „
Soup	...	21 tins	Cheese	...	20 „
Beef	...	18 „	Biscuits	...	40 „
Ox Tongue	...	8 „	Cake	...	504 „
Sausage Meat	...	10 „	Veal and Ham Pie	...	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Stewed Steak	...	5 „	Bacon	...	77 „
Chopped Ham	...	13 „	Brawn	...	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Meat Roll	...	16 „	Ham	...	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Crab	...	1 „	Codling	...	70 „
Herrings	...	8 „	Haddock	...	7 „
Lobster	...	2 „	Skate	...	98 „
Mackerel	...	2 „	Cordials	...	2 bottles
Sardines	...	5 „	Coffee	...	2 „
Salmon	..	30 „			

The total weight of the above amounted to 1 ton, 5 cwts., 23 lbs.

Shops Act, 1934. In the course of the year 71 inspections were made in accordance with this Act, on five premises insanitary conditions were found, in each case the person responsible was notified and the defects were remedied.



Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following table gives particulars of the samples submitted to the Public Analyst :

Article	Samples taken		Result of Analysis		Prosecutions
	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Adulterated	
New Milk	... 11	0	10	1	1
Coffee	... 1	0	1	0	0
Baking Powder...	1	0	1	0	0
Mustard	... 1	0	1	0	0
Pepper	... 1	0	1	0	0
Sausage	... 2	0	2	0	0
Vinegar	... 2	0	2	0	0
Total ...	19	0	18	1	1

Administrative Return of Action with regard to samples not reported to be genuine :

Article	Nature of Adulteration		Result
New Milk. No. 23.	6 per cent. deficient in milk fat.		Fined 20/-

The average composition of the 10 "genuine" samples of milk was :

Non-fatty milk solids	..	8.9 per cent.
Milk-fat	.. ..	3.61 per cent.

Five informal samples of milk were examined in the Sanitary Inspector's Office, this informal examination of samples enables a close supervision to be maintained at a minimum of cost.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

10 licences were issued for the storage of a total of 15,521 gallons of petroleum-spirit.

One licence to store 40 gallons of petroleum mixture was granted.

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority was £5 15s. 0d.

75 inspections were made under the Act.

Public Cleansing.

House and trade refuse collection is carried out by a contractor working under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Modern vehicles of the rear loading type and fitted with movable rubber floors are in use and have proved efficient. 1,160 loads of house refuse and 67 loads of trade refuse were collected during the year, this is a reduction in the amount collected and was to be expected as many articles formerly thrown away as refuse are now saved and collected by the Salvage Department.

Street Cleansing. Sweeping of the Streets is carried out by workmen in the employ of the Council, since the early part of July the collection and removal of the sweepings has also been by direct labour.

Salvage work has been continued throughout the year, all houses in the town area are visited once each week and fortnightly visits are paid to the outlying districts, the results this year show a big improvement on those of the previous year and are as follows :

SALVAGE COLLECTIONS AND SALES.

Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.		£	s.	d.
177	6	2	22	Paper and Books ...	1058	11	6½
37	2	1		Iron	60	5	1
61	14			Tins	46	10	10
	5			Aluminium	13	10	7
	7	2	3	Brass	6	15	5
	1	1	10	Copper	2	2	11
	10	0	18	Lead	6	4	1
		1	11½	Pewter	1	9	3
		3	6	Lead Foil		15	0
	2	1	11	Zinc	1	10	10½
			24	Mixed Metals		2	0
6	16	2	27	Rags	87	17	5
	7	2	6	Woollens	20	18	0
1	12	0	6	Carpet	4	14	0
2	12	0	12	Sacking	10	8	11
1	14	1	6	Flock	3	8	8
5	6	3	0	Rubber	6	19	10½
8	16			Dry Batteries	4	8	0
	4	3	7	Cord and Rope		15	4
		2	23	Horse Hair	1	8	8
		2	2	Feathers		14	6
				Felt Hats, 9 doz.	2	4	4
	2	1	6	Gramophone Records		10	4½
				Razor Blades, 824		9	8
3	11	2		Bottles, 61 grs., 3 doz.	37	7	5
5	18	2		Jars, 100 grs. 11 doz.	64	14	2
8	4	3		Bones	28	5	10½
				Haulage	43	4	1
				Paper Clips		1	0
322	18	1	4½		£1516	7	10

Your obedient servant, F. J. SAUNDERS.

